

REMARKS

Claims 1-52 remain pending in the application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

Section 103(a) Rejection:

The Office Action rejected claims 1-52 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lynch (U.S. Patent 6,487,600). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection in light of the following remarks.

The Examiner states that Lynch reasonably suggests the advertising space marketing method of claim 1. Apparently the Examiner has misunderstood Applicants' claims to be directed to a commercial advertising space marketing method. However, Applicants' claimed invention is not a commercial advertising space marketing method. The terms "space" and "advertisement" are technical terms of art in distributed computing. The terms "space" and "advertisement" in claim 1 do not refer to commercial advertising or marketing. As recited in claim 1, a "space ... comprises information for accessing services or content in the distributed computing environment." Also as recited in claim 1, each "advertisement comprises information for accessing a corresponding space". Applicants note that the present application has been assigned to art unit 3622 (Electronic Commerce – Incentive Programs, Coupons). It appears that the Office has incorrectly assigned the application. Applicants suggest that an art unit in group 2100 would be more appropriate.

In regard to claim 1, Lynch clearly does not teach or suggest a client sending a space discovery request to obtain an advertisement for a space. Other than listing essentially every column and line of Lynch, the only specific portion on Lynch referred to by the Examiner is the following sentence: "Merchants may purchase advertising and catalog space on the network friend." (Lynch -- col. 24, lines 64-66, erroneously cited by the Examiner as col. 12, lines 53-64). However, merchants purchasing advertisement and

catalog space on the network friend in Lynch has absolutely no relevance to a client sending a space discovery request to obtain an advertisement for a space. Lynch does not teach any type of discovery request sent by a client. Lynch certainly does not suggest a client sending a space discovery request to obtain an advertisement for a space, wherein the advertisement comprises information for accessing a corresponding space, and the space comprises information for accessing services or content in the distributed computing environment.

Nor does Lynch teach or suggest a listener agent receiving the space discovery request from the client, and the listener agent sending an indication of one or more space advertisements to the client in response to the discovery request. There is no listener agent disclosed in Lynch that receives a space discovery request from a client and in response thereto sends an indication of one or more space advertisements to the client, wherein each space advertisement comprises information for accessing a corresponding space, and a space corresponding to one of the space advertisements comprises information for accessing services or content in the distributed computing environment.

In regard to claim 16, Lynch does not teach or suggest a client accessing a discovery service to obtain an advertisement for a space service. The lone reference in Lynch that “Merchants may purchase advertising and catalog space on the network friend” has no relevance to this element of claim 16. Nor does any other portion of Lynch teach or suggest this element of claim 16.

Further in regard to claim 16, Lynch does not teach or suggest the discovery service locating one or more space service advertisements and the discovery service returning an indication of said one or more space service advertisements to the client, wherein each space service advertisement comprises information for accessing a corresponding space service, and wherein each corresponding space service is configured to provide information for accessing one or more services or content within the distributed computing environment. The lone reference in Lynch that “Merchants may purchase advertising and catalog space on the network friend” has no relevance to these

elements of claim 16. Nor does any other portion of Lynch teach or suggest these elements of claim 16.

In regard to claim 29, Lynch does not teach or suggest one or more devices configured to provide one or more space services, wherein each space service is configured for providing information for accessing one or more services or content in the distributed computing environment. The lone reference in Lynch that “Merchants may purchase advertising and catalog space on the network friend” has no relevance to this element of claim 29. Nor does any other portion of Lynch teach or suggest this element of claim 29.

Further in regard to claim 29, Lynch does not teach or suggest a client device configured to send a space discovery request to obtain an advertisement for one of said space services. The lone reference in Lynch that “Merchants may purchase advertising and catalog space on the network friend” has no relevance to this element of claim 29. Nor does any other portion of Lynch teach or suggest this element of claim 29.

Further in regard to claim 29, Lynch does not teach or suggest a listener agent configured to receive the space discovery request from the client, wherein the listener agent is configured to send an indication of one or more space service advertisements to the client in response to the discovery request, and wherein each space advertisement comprises information for accessing a corresponding one of said one or more space services. The lone reference in Lynch that “Merchants may purchase advertising and catalog space on the network friend” has no relevance to these elements of claim 29. Nor does any other portion of Lynch teach or suggest these elements of claim 29.

In regard to claim 40, Lynch does not teach or suggest a client device configured to access a discovery service to obtain an advertisement for a space service. The lone reference in Lynch that “Merchants may purchase advertising and catalog space on the network friend” has no relevance to this element of claim 40. Nor does any other portion of Lynch teach or suggest this element of claim 40.

Further in regard to claim 40, Lynch does not teach or suggest a device configured to provide the discovery service, wherein the discovery service is configured to locate one or more space service advertisements, and wherein the discovery service is configured to return an indication of said one or more space service advertisements to the client device, wherein each space service advertisement comprises information for accessing a corresponding space service, and wherein each corresponding space service is configured to provide information for accessing one or more services or content within the distributed computing environment. The lone reference in Lynch that “Merchants may purchase advertising and catalog space on the network friend” has no relevance to these elements of claim 40. Nor does any other portion of Lynch teach or suggest these elements of claim 40.

The Examiner’s rejection of the independent claims is clearly not supported by the teachings of the cited art and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Applicants also specifically traverse the Examiner’s taking of Official Notice in regard to the limitations of each of the dependent claims. The limitations of the dependent claims were not known in the prior art. For example, in regard to claim 2 (as read in combination with claim 1), at the time of Applicants’ invention it was not known in the art for the client receiving indication of the one or more space advertisements, the client selecting one of the one or more space advertisements, and the client accessing a space corresponding to the selected space advertisement. Applicants assert that the combination of features recited in each dependent claim was not well known in the art at the time of Applicants’ invention. As the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit recently explained in *In re Sang Su Lee*, Docket No. 00-1158 (Fed. Cir. January 18, 2002), conclusory statements such as those provided by the Examiner that a claim limitation is well known or common knowledge do not fulfill the Examiner’s obligation. “Deficiencies of the cited references cannot be remedied by the [Examiner’s] general conclusions about what is ‘basic knowledge’ or ‘common sense.’” *In re Zurko*, 59 USPQ2d 1693, 1697 (Fed. Cir. 2001). “Common knowledge and common sense ... do

not substitute for authority.” *In re San Su Lee*. Common knowledge “does not in and of itself make it so” absent evidence of such knowledge. *Smiths Industries Medical Systems, Inc. v. Vital Signs, Inc.*, 51 USPQ2d 1415, 1421 (Fed. Cir. 1999). Applicants assert that the Examiner must provide references to support his rejection of each dependent claim or withdraw the rejections.

CONCLUSION

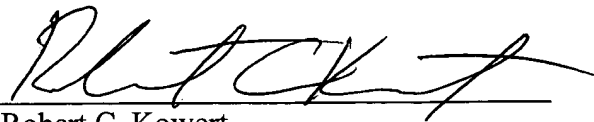
Applicants submit the application is in condition for allowance, and notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

If any extension of time (under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136) is necessary to prevent the above referenced application from becoming abandoned, Applicants hereby petition for such extension. If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/5181-65000/RCK.

Also enclosed herewith are the following items:

- ☒ Return Receipt Postcard
- ☐ Petition for Extension of Time
- ☐ Notice of Change of Address
- ☐ Fee Authorization Form authorizing a deposit account debit in the amount of \$
for fees ().
- ☐ Other:

Respectfully submitted,



Robert C. Kowert
Reg. No. 39,255
ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT(S)

Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C.
P.O. Box 398
Austin, TX 78767-0398
Phone: (512) 853-8850

Date: May 25, 2004